

London
SE1
18 March 2004

**FOR THE URGENT PERSONAL ATTENTION OF MUSA KUSA,
DEPARTMENT OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND
COLLABORATION**

Following message for Musa in Tripoli from Mark in London

1. I am so grateful to you for your help in sorting out this visit to the Leader by our Prime Minister. The diplomats had failed to get organised. What you did made a great impression at No 10. They are grateful too.
2. A member of the Prime Minister's staff, David Quarrey, will be travelling to Libya shortly to discuss arrangements. He will be coming on diplomatic channels.
3. No 10 have asked me to put to you their request that there be no publicity for the Prime Minister's visit now or over the next few days - that is well in advance of the visit. Since Madrid everyone is extra security conscious.
4. In No 10, their present thinking is that there should not (not) be a press conference for the Leader and the Prime Minister. (After reading the British press in recent weeks this seems to me only sensible. The Prime Minister will have 60 journalists with him). They are considering whether to propose that the Leader and the Prime Minister both make a short statement to the press. I think this will be followed up by the diplomats and maybe David Quarrey.
5. No 10 however are keen that the Prime Minister meet the Leader in his tent. I don't know why the English are fascinated by tents. The plain fact is that the journalists would love it. My own view is that it would give a good impression of the Leader's preference for simplicity which I know is important to him. You may have seen very different press coverage of the Prime Minister in Riyadh. Anyway if this is possible, No 10 would be very grateful.
6. No 10 are expecting that the visit will take place in Tripoli and not Sirte. Apparently it is important that the journalists have easy access to hotels and so on where there may be facilities for them to file their stories to their newspapers.
7. No 10 have asked me to accompany the Prime Minister so I am very much looking forward to seeing you next Thursday.
8. No 10 have asked whether I could get an officer into Tripoli a few days before the visit who could be in contact with Kufat. I think this would give them comfort that everything would work out well. They are very keen that this visit is a great success. I am thinking of asking Paddy to come from Rome. I will be in touch separately about this.

9. Most importantly I congratulate you on the safe arrival of Abu 'Abd Allah Sadiq. This was the least we could do for you and for Libya to demonstrate the remarkable relationship we have built over recent years. I am so glad. I was grateful to you for helping the officer we sent out last week. Abu 'Abd Allah's information on the situation in this country is of urgent importance to us. Amusingly, we got a request from the Americans to channel requests for information from Abu 'Abd Allah through the Americans. I have no intention of doing any such thing. The intelligence about Abu 'Abd Allah was British. I know I did not pay for the air cargo. But I feel I have the right to deal with you direct on this and am very grateful to you for the help you are giving us.

M.